Global Watch Daily – September 23, 2026

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A concise summary of significant developments in Israel and the world through a grounded Christian worldview.

Israel & Jerusalem

An indictment reveals that two suspects planned to assassinate the Israeli minister using an explosive drone. Meanwhile, 350 writers have signed a petition demanding public redress for author Ariana Harwicz after organizers of the Granada literary festival excluded her due to her opposition to cultural boycotts of Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sharply criticized French President Emmanuel Macron following Macron's remarks that appeared to downplay Hamas's activities in the occupied territories (JNS; JNS; BBC News).

In an exit interview with JNS, Dror Bin reflects on his tenure managing crisis intervention and deep-technology initiatives, Israel's evolving relationship with Europe, and his expectations for his successor. He emphasizes that Hamas initiated the war in Gaza, and Israelis continue to bear the consequences (JNS; JNS).

The United Nations Population Fund reports a "severe escalation" in early and forced marriages, highlighting the ongoing social challenges in the region (BBC News).

Wars & Security (Israel and Region)

The Houthis, alongside the Yemeni Armed Forces and allied militias, continue intense fighting on multiple fronts across Yemen. Their efforts focus particularly on securing the highlands inland from their recent coastal advances, while they maintain ongoing attacks against Saudi Arabia. In response to a complex suicide attack in western Pakistan, the Pakistani Air Force conducted airstrikes targeting terrorist training centers in eastern Afghanistan. The Taliban denied involvement in the attack and vowed an "appropriate response" to Pakistan's airstrikes (Long War Journal; Long War Journal).

David Daoud, a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies specializing in Lebanon and Hezbollah, hosted Lina Khatib of Chatham House to discuss her July visit to southern Lebanon. They examined why the 2006 war failed to establish the Lebanese Armed Forces' control over the border region. The conversation also touched on the

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broader implications for U.S. allies in the Middle East and the need to reconsider strategies toward Iran (Long War Journal; FDD).

Chatham House welcomed its 2026-2027 cohort to the Molchanov Sustainability Internship Programme, offering a six-month placement focused on global security and policy. On the battlefield, Israeli forces advanced from the outskirts of Ali al Taher Ridge into Hezbollah's underground network. Hezbollah has repeatedly adjusted its narrative of success, shifting from denying Israeli entry to framing the loss of the position as an attritional achievement (Chatham House; Long War Journal).

Global Macro & Geopolitics

A significant Pacific Ocean storm is intensifying due to warm waters linked to the El Niño weather phenomenon. Israeli officials have strongly rebuked French President Emmanuel Macron after his United Nations General Assembly speech criticized Israel's actions in the occupied West Bank. Despite Macron's harsh rhetoric, France permitted Prime Minister Netanyahu's plane to land, illustrating the complex diplomatic balancing act. Meanwhile, the global stage is marked by the fragile egos of leaders such as Xi Jinping and Donald Trump, whose assertive postures contribute to geopolitical instability (BBC News; France24 ; The Diplomat).

Bloomberg reports on recent developments including Iran negotiations and surging mortgage rates, highlighting ongoing economic and diplomatic pressures shaping global markets (Bloomberg).

AI Dominion, Deception & the Antichrist System

Amazon and Ring are asking a federal judge to dismiss a proposed class action over Ring's controversial Familiar Faces facial recognition feature, arguing that the plaintiffs have not plausibly alleged that the company collected their biometric data. The motion also attacks a broader premise of the lawsuit. The agentic commerce boom analysts have forecast can't happen safely on today's infrastructure, according to a whitepaper from Seattle-based decentralized identity company Indicio. The company makes its case in Identity, Commerce, and the Agentic Web, published on September 8, 2026 (biometricupdate.com).

A federal judge dismissed a proposed class action accusing Meta of unlawfully collecting voiceprints from Facebook and Messenger users, finding that the California plaintiff gave the company permission to use his voice data when he accepted Meta's terms and

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incorporated privacy disclosures. A federal judge in California dismissed Nicholas Robinson's lawsuit against Meta on September 15, finding that the company had permission to use the voice data (biometricupdate.com).

Online identity startup Moir is reportedly seeking about $50 million in seed funding to build technology that helps people prove who they are online as deepfakes and artificial intelligence-generated impersonation become more convincing. The company is being founded by Tina Oberoi, who spent more than five years at Google before joining x artificial intelligence's data team. Available on Telegram for a $1,500 initiation fee and a recurring $500 monthly subscription, Evil Tokens provided cybercriminals with AI tools that let them compromise accounts, analyze breached inboxes, and find the best ways to monetize their access through fraud (biometricupdate.com; therecord.media).

India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) continues to evolve toward more trustworthy user authentication methods, such as native device biometrics, with the introduction of "Tap & Pay" transactions. UPI transactions authenticated with biometrics have surpassed 6.29 billion as of the end of August. Real Sense has divested the computer vision for industrial robotics portion of its business and will focus on biometric authentication in a blockbuster computer vision deal. Industrial machine vision provider Cognex Corporation is acquiring Real Sense's entire portfolio, except for its face biometrics business, in a $500 million all-cash transaction (biometricupdate.com).

Pestilence & Global Health

Researchers have identified evidence that long COVID may damage dopamine-releasing neurons in the brain, potentially explaining symptoms such as persistent fatigue, low motivation, slowed movement, and memory difficulties. This discovery opens avenues for treatments targeting the brain's dopamine system. Additionally, scientists have developed a method to date ancient plague genomes more precisely, linking many to historical outbreaks. Meanwhile, a growing Bundibugyo virus outbreak highlights how a lesser-known relative of Ebola can pose a significant threat when diagnostic and treatment options are limited. Experts caution that focusing solely on familiar pathogens risks leaving the world vulnerable to the reemergence of rare but deadly viruses (ScienceDaily; ScienceDaily; ScienceDaily).

Natural Disasters & Signs in the Heavens

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The United States Geological Survey recorded a magnitude 1.2 earthquake near Big Bear City, California, and a magnitude 5.3 earthquake near Arauco, Argentina. Additionally, a magnitude 6.5 earthquake struck near Nikolski, Alaska. In Indonesia, authorities issued a green forest fire notification, indicating ongoing wildfire monitoring efforts (USGS; USGS; USGS; GDACS).

Middle Eastern Artifacts

Archaeologists have discovered the tomb of an ancient Egyptian royal chamberlain in Sector A of the Bubasteum necropolis in Saqqara during its inaugural excavation season. The Pyramid of Menkaure has been closed to visitors following recent developments. A final report on Italian excavations in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher reveals a clear sequence of site usage: from stone quarry to farmland, then cemetery, and finally church. Access to the full report requires a subscription. Authorities have also employed advanced methods in their investigations (BiblePlaces; BiblePlaces).

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